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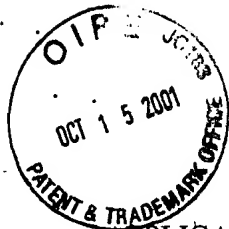
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PATENT

P. 2.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : Eduardo BLUMWALD et al.  
SERIAL NO : 09/271,584  
FILED : March 18, 1999  
TITLE : GENETIC ENGINEERING SALT TOLERANCE IN CROP PLANTS

Grp./A.U. : 1638  
Examiner : Kubelik, A.  
Docket No. : 4001

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 12, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 29, 31, 53, and 55 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended)

An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a PNHX transporter polypeptide, or a fragment of a polypeptide having  $\text{Na}^+/\text{H}^+$  transporter activity that provides increased salt tolerance in a cell, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is not the sequence having GenBank Accession No. AF007271.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this document and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 12th day of October, 2001.

Heidi S. Nebel